



Washington State Department of Agriculture *Hearing Notice*

For immediate release: Aug. 15, 2003 (03-37)

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WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Hearings set for August 26 in Yakima and August 28 in Spokane

Seed inspection and grain warehouse rule changes enhance services for agriculture

OLYMPIA – The state Department of Agriculture (WSDA) is collecting public comments on two proposed rule changes. Both rules would implement laws passed by the 2003 Legislature. One rule increases the fees WSDA charges for seed inspections and testing. The other extends the time grain warehouse operators have to move wheat and other grains to alternate locations during emergency storage situations.

Seed inspection fee increase: WSDA proposes to increase seed testing and inspection fees to cover operating expenses and add two seed analysts to shorten turnaround times at the state's seed testing laboratory. The additional funds would enhance WSDA's ability to address future testing requirements of new technology and crops being grown in Washington. The rule would also condense the fee schedule by removing separate fees for each crop and assigning them to categories. In addition to the fee increases, WSDA is proposing minor changes to the general seed regulations and seed certification rules. Comments on the proposal will be heard at 1 p.m. Aug. 26 at the Washington State Department of Agriculture, 21 N. First Ave. in Yakima. Written comments will be accepted until 5 p.m. that day at the address below. The proposed rule is on WSDA's Web site at agr.wa.gov/Inspection/SeedInspection/Rule_Revision.htm#hearing.

Grain Warehouse rule: To help grain warehouse operators accommodate wheat and barley farmers during the crunch of harvest, WSDA proposes to remove the 30-day limit for moving receipted grain to alternate locations. The proposed rule would allow grain to be forwarded for up to 120 days without the need to cancel or reissue negotiable receipts. It would also reduce risk to growers and others who use warehouses to store grains, help warehouse owners maintain quality by rotating inventories, and may prevent grain from being piled on the ground outside of storage facilities. The proposed change would align WSDA rule with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's grain storage requirements. Comments on the proposal will be heard at 1:30 p.m. Aug. 28 at the Spokane County Agriculture Center, 222 N. Havana St. in Spokane. Written comments will be accepted until 5 p.m. the same day at the address below. The proposed rule is on WSDA's Web site at agr.wa.gov/Inspection/GrainWarehouseAudit/Rule_Revision.htm

Send written comments to: George Huffman, Washington State Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 42560, Olympia, WA 98504-2560. Comments may be sent by fax to (360) 902-2092 or by e-mail to ghuffman@agr.wa.gov.